

# Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

**The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 13, 2012  
Room 4/5  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Brian DiNunno, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Patrick Matos, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, John Reed, Don Rounds, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd, Larry Zaragoza

**Staff:** Maia Davis, Jeff King

## **1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. The agenda and minutes from December 12, 2011 were approved with no changes.

## **2. Regional Collaborative Procurement of Solar Energy Solutions (Jeff King, COG DEP Staff)**

Jeff King gave an overview of the Metro DC Clean Energy Collaborative Procurement Initiative. The Initiative was launched by EPA's Green Power Partnership and COG has been working with the partnership to encourage and coordinate participation. The EPA is working with several agencies across the region including local governments, school districts, transit agencies, universities, and one hospital, to collaboratively purchase and install solar photovoltaic power on their facilities. Out of 176 sites that were studied, 57 high potential sites were identified. If 80% of the installations are successfully installed, as in the initiative's pilot in Silicon Valley, the projects would generate 33 megawatts of energy—enough to power 2,200 homes and avoid 26,700 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Collaborative purchasing allows for better pricing and lowers administrative costs.

ACPAC had a discussion about the fact that no federal agencies are involved. Caroline Petti volunteered to follow-up with EPA's Green Power Partnership staff to better understand why federal agencies are not involved. This will help determine whether it is appropriate for ACPAC to write a letter to encourage federal participation.

## **3. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Jeff King, COG DEP Staff)**

Since ACPAC had new ACPAC members begin their terms at this meeting Jeff took this opportunity to provide some basic background information about MWAQC and CEEPC before moving into the committee updates. Jeff described the importance and implications of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation request. He described how the new MOVES model required by EPA has higher air quality projections than the previous Mobile 6 model and that there is currently a discussion on if that should influence the air quality "budgets" that are set for the region. For CEEPC, Jeff said that an upcoming priority for CEEPC is to set priorities for this year and to create a new workplan for years beyond 2012. Jeff suggested that now is the time for ACPAC to have input on CEEPC priorities and would also like input on symposium recommendations. An agenda item will be added to the March ACPAC meeting for this purpose.

#### **4. United Nations Climate Change Conference, Durban Nov/Dec 2011 (Katherine Sierra, Global Economy and Development at BROOKINGS)**

Katherine provided a clear and concise explanation of the past three United Nations Climate Change Conferences. She explained that to understand the outcomes of the recent Durban conference, we needed to understand the outcomes of the previous Cancun and Copenhagen conferences.

For Copenhagen, there were high expectations that were unmet. At the last minute the Copenhagen Accord was agreed to, which is a non-legally binding treaty that affirmed the world should be no more than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Countries were able to make voluntary pledges of actions they would take to meet the treaty's goal. The goal for the Cancun conference was to solidify the outcome of the Copenhagen conference. Pledges were solidified and a Green Climate Fund was created to assist the poorest countries in working towards to Copenhagen treaty goals. They discussed setting up a system to monitor and verify voluntary pledges, but this faced was opposition, especially from China.

These events lead to the conference in Durban, where there was much lower expectations than at the previous conferences. Kyoto was surprisingly extended but only Europe pledged commitments. All parties agreed to make a new, "legally binding" agreement by 2025. It is not clear what is meant by "legally binding" and they would like to get an agreement done in the next few years, well before 2025. Sources of funding for the Green Climate Fund were not agreed on but it is clear that the private sector will need to be leveraged. They did agree on how to monitor and report emissions; there will be self-reporting and it will not be verified by an outside source.

Katherine answered several questions posed by ACPAC. She clarified that other countries, such as Australia and European countries, have top down support to meet the treaty's goals; however, in the United States it will be up to state and local action to meet the pledges the US made in the Copenhagen Accord. The US negotiators at the conference included people who report to the Treasury, State Department and White House but they have to be cautious about what they can commit the US to. In response to a question about climate adaptation, Katherine described how adaptation is and will be very important to developing countries because they are very vulnerable compared to the developed world and the vast majority of new emitters will be located in developing countries.

#### **5. ACPAC Member Orientation (Maia Davis, COG Staff)**

Maia Davis walked members through the 2012 ACPAC Handbook. The handbook is intended to provide basic information on ACPAC, MWAQC and CEEPC and serve as a reference for members year-round. The handbook includes the following information:

- ACPAC Membership Roster
- Meeting Schedule for 2012
- ACPAC Overview
- ACPAC Bylaws and Meeting Procedures
- MWAQC and CEEPC Organizational Structures
- MWAQC and CEEPC Member Rosters
- Overviews of MWAQC and CEEPC
- 2010 MWAQC Annual Report
- MWAQC Glossary of Terms and Acronyms
- 2010 – 2012 CEEPC Climate and Energy Action Workplan
- 2010 CEEPC Climate and Energy Progress Report
- Additional Air Quality, Climate and Energy Resources and Educational Materials

**6. Selection of New and Re-Appointed Member Terms**

ACPAC bylaws state that terms will be staggered so that one-third of appointments shall expire each year. Therefore, terms need to be identified for new and re-appointed members. Terms were selected and an updated roster with everyone’s terms will be provided at the March ACPAC meeting.

**7. Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

The current chair, Caroline Petti, and current vice chair, Beverly Fourier, were both re-elected to continue in their current roles for 2012.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**Next meeting: March 19 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5**